

PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney Middle District of Florida

PAUL I. PEREZ UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street Suite 3200 Tampa, Florida 33602 813/274-6000 813/274-6300 (Fax) 300 North Hogan Street, Suite 700 Post Office Box 600 Jacksonville, Horida 32201 904/301-6300 904/301-6310 (Fax) 80 North Hughey Avenue, Room 201 Orlando, Florida 32801 407/648-7500 407/648-7643 (Fax) 2110 First Street, Suite 3-137 Fort Myers, Floiida 33901 239/461-2200 239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

February 14, 2003

The following is a statement issued by U.S. Attorney Paul I. Perez regarding the recent Aisenberg order issued by the District Court:

"My office has reviewed thoroughly the Aisenberg order in the context of the Hyde statutory provisions and the federal rules of criminal procedure. The Court's order addresses critical issues that could have broad and far-reaching implications in other cases around the country. After consulting with Department of Justice officials in Washington D. C. I have decided to turn over the appeal to the Department. My office will provide assistance as needed or requested, but otherwise we are relinquishing control of the case to the Department."